

# FISCAL NOTE

## SB 826 - HB 754

May 4, 2001

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Enacts the *Political Accountability Reform Act of 2001* relative to elections of and votes by certain public officials as follows:

- The Registry of Election Finance shall make all reported contribution and expenditure information provided to the Registry available to the public on the Internet. The Registry shall not make the information on one candidate available until it is able to make such information available for all candidates for one particular office.
- Each County Election Commission shall be composed of two members of the majority party, two members of the minority party, and one General Sessions Judge, to be selected by the county legislative body.
- Directs the Office of Legislative Information Systems(OLS) to develop a computer program that would enable all roll-call votes taken on a bill or resolution in a subcommittee, a committee, or the Senate or the House of Representatives to be posted on the Internet through the General Assembly's website within 24 hours of the vote taken on the bill or resolution. The Director of the Office would consult with the Speakers of the House and the Senate to determine the most efficient manner to accomplish the posting. This posting would begin with the 103rd General Assembly.
- Makes all meetings conducted by the General Assembly and by its committees, subcommittees or ad hoc committees subject to the open meetings act.

### ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$144,500 One-Time/Registry of Election Finance  
\$30,000 Recurring FY01-02 and Thereafter  
Less than \$100,000 One-Time/OLS  
\$55,000 Recurring FY02-03 and Thereafter**

Estimate assumes:

- One-time cost of \$144,500 to the Registry of Election Finance for the contracted services of the developer of the system and recurring costs of \$30,000 for system maintenance and mainframe server space rental.
- One-time costs for lap top computers for hearing rooms of approximately \$2,000 each. Additional expenses would be for computer programming changes to enable roll-call votes to be

posted on the Internet site. Such changes would include the development of reporting formats and interfaces, including interfacing the electronic votes taken on the floor of the House and Senate with the legislative information system. The amount of expenditures will depend on the amount of programming that can be accomplished using legislative staff and problems encountered in the system development. This increase cannot be determined but is estimated to be less than \$100,000 to the Office of Legislative Information Systems.

- Recurring expenditures reflect a need for five part-time positions and associated expenses to enter each roll-call vote, using a lap top computer, into the legislative information system. One staff person would be assigned to each committee room to comply with the bill's requirement that such data be entered within 24 hours. Estimate is for salary and operational expenses for five months.

For information purposes, the most efficient method to record all roll-call votes and transmit such data to the Internet would be to install equipment and software capable of recording and transmitting each member's vote, in each committee room, directly to the legislative information system and to the Internet. The cost to install such system would require a significant one-time investment of state dollars.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James A. Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James A. Davenport, Executive Director